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ABSTRACT

Research on several major interrelated dimensions of the Asian Pacific American higher educational experience is reviewed. The interrelated dimensions are (1) the impact of major demographic trends among the Asian Pacific population on its college-going sector; (2) the issues of Asian Pacific American faculty and administrative representation in higher educational institutions; and (3) the Asian Pacific American admissions quotas controversy of the 1980s and early 1990s. Asian Pacific Americans are the fastest growing minority in the United States, but it is a mistake to see them as a monolithic group. Asian Pacific Americans are an extremely heterogeneous population with an ethnic diversity clearly available at the nation's colleges and universities, where enrollment is increasing rapidly. There is a substantial decline in the numbers of Asian Pacific American college faculty members as one moves up the academic pyramid, and the diversity of Asian Pacific American populations is not well represented. The controversy that surrounds the increasing enrollment of Asian Pacific Americans, especially at the country's most prestigious schools, and the continuing claims of ethnic discrimination make rigorous scholarship on the Asian Pacific American population about issues of race and ethnicity, achievement, and educational experience imperative. (Contains 86 references.) (SLD)

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